United Nations S/2004/652

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 August 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 16 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the attached communiqué which was issued by the Government of Rwanda on 14 August 2004, concerning the massacre of more than 150 Banyamulenge refugees in Burundi (see annex).

We request that the present letter and the communiqué be circulated to all members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

14 August 2004

The Government of Rwanda is shocked and horrified to learn of a massacre of more than 150 Banyamulenge at the refugee camp of Katumba, in Burundi, which occurred on the night of 13 August 2004.

Information available to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda indicates that this despicable act was perpetrated by a combined force of ex-FAR/Interahamwe (FDLR/FOCA) and Mayi-Mayi from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in cooperation with elements of FNL/PALIPEHUTU.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda wishes to remind the international community that during and following the May/June 2004 events in Bukavu, Banyamulenge refugees in Rwanda and Burundi have consistently affirmed that they fled targeted and systematic massacres against them by armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the command of Mbuza Mabe, acting in concert with the ex-FAR/Interahamwe.

To our surprise, MONUC, which is supposed to be the eyes, ears and voice of the international community in the region, claims to have seen no evidence of targeted massacres of this community. We believe that the latest massacre at Katumba lays this feeble lie to rest.

The Government of Rwanda strongly condemns this recent targeted massacre of Banyamulenge which is a result of the genocidal ideology that currently holds sway in our region, nurtured and propagated by ex-FAR/Interahamwe forces and those in the region and the wider international community who give them assistance and succour.

The Government of Rwanda is gravely disturbed that for the last 10 years the international community has consistently refused to disarm the ex-FAR/Interahamwe, the force that committed genocide in Rwanda, or to take any other decisive action against them. Despite numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions expressly forbidding any Member State from providing military, political and diplomatic support to these genocidal forces, some members of the international community have consistently continued to extend support to them.

Although MONUC regularly meets the leadership of ex-FAR/Interahamwe and is fully aware of the location, strength, and movements of this genocidal force around and across the borders between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and Burundi, it has never intervened to foil attacks on Rwanda or Burundi or even warned these two countries of impending attacks. This failure to act has had devastating consequences for innocent civilians in these two countries. In addition to this, MONUC and the tenth military region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have recently observed and/or facilitated the return to their mother units of genocidal forces fleeing military operations carried out by Burundi armed forces.

The Government of Rwanda once again calls upon the international community to take action against this incipient ethnic cleansing now taking root in the region and especially in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. We also reiterate our demand for the forcible disarmament, demobilization and repatriation

of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe now deployed along Rwanda's border and in many cases co-located with armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; failure to do so may force Rwanda to take appropriate measures in self-defence. Rwanda is not prepared to accept or tolerate the status quo.